

O 051035Z JUN 89
FM AIT TAIPEI
TO AIT WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TAIPEI 03647

FOR AIT/W ALSO FOR EAP/RA/TC
CINCPAC FOR FPA
BEIJING ALSO PASS CHENGDU

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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SUBJECT: TAIWAN REACTIONS TO THE TIANANMEN MASSACRE

REF: TAIPEI 3626 (NOTAL)

11. (C) SUMMARY. THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES HAVE REACTED TO THE DRAMATIC JUNE 4 EVENTS IN BEIJING BY MAKING A SERIES OF DECLARATIONS. PRESIDENT LEE ISSUED A DENUNCIATION OF THE BLOODY SUPPRESSION OF THE TIANANMEN DEMONSTRATORS AND A CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRC DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT. A SIMILAR RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SECOND PLENUM, WHICH ABANDONED ITS AGENDA IN FAVOR OF AN ALL-DAY DISCUSSION OF MAINLAND POLICY. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEN CHAN CALLED IN AMBASSADORS TO ASK FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT, WHILE THE TAIWAN'S ARMED FORCES WERE PLACED ON ALERT AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. MONEY IS BEING COLLECTED IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMONSTRATORS, AND TAIWAN'S RED CROSS IS ATTEMPTING TO FIND WAYS TO DELIVER ASSISTANCE. MEANWHILE, PREMIER LEE HUAN AND OTHERS HAVE DECLARED THAT TAIWAN'S POLICY OF ALLOWING VISITS TO THE MAINLAND WILL NOT CHANGE. IN THE MIDST OF CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PRC, SOME VOICES HAVE BEEN RAISED CAUTIONING AGAINST TAIWAN'S TRADE WITH THE MAINLAND, AND WE EXPECT THAT THE DETAILS, IF NOT THE OVERALL THRUST, OF TAIWAN'S MAINLAND POLICY WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE DEBATE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE STUDENTS' SUPPRESSION. END SUMMARY.

12. (U) PRESIDENT LI TENG-HUI, IN A STATEMENT TO THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM JUNE 4, CONDEMNED THE ATTACK BY THE PLA ON THE DEMONSTRATORS IN BEIJING. LI SAID THAT THE VIOLENCE IN BEIJING EXPOSES THE CRUELTY OF THE COMMUNISTS AND WILL LEAD TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRC GOVERNMENT. HE CALLED ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO CONDEMN THE COMMUNISTS AND ON OVERSEAS CHINESE TO SUPPORT THE DEMONSTRATORS AND OPPOSE THE COMMUNISTS. THE PRESIDENT ALSO WARNED OF POSSIBLE COMMUNIST MILITARY MOVES AGAINST TAIWAN AND TOLD THE PEOPLE AND THE ARMED FORCES TO BE ON THE ALERT. HE PLEDGED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR RESISTANCE ON THE MAINLAND AND STATED THAT THE GOAL OF TAIWAN IS TO "UNITE ALL ANTI-COMMUNIST AND PATRIOTIC FORCES IN THEIR UNTIRING EFFORT TO OVERTURN THIS TYRANNY."

13. (U) THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE TIANANMEN CRACKDOWN. THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, MEETING YESTERDAY ON THE SECOND DAY OF ITS THREE-DAY SESSION, SCRAPPED ITS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE AND DEVOTED THE ENTIRE DAY TO A DISCUSSION OF MAINLAND POLICY. A RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONDEMNED THE MASSACRE OF THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS, DECLARED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM ON THE MAINLAND, CALLED FOR LONG-TERM "MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" FROM ABROAD FOR THIS GOAL AND URGED STRONG

INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION AND UNSPECIFIED SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PRC. IT ALSO PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR CHINESE COMPATRIOTS STRUGGLING TO COMPEL BEIJING TO GIVE UP ITS "FOUR CARDINAL PRINCIPLES" AND "EVENTUALLY OVERTURN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST TYRANNY."

14. (C) MEANWHILE, FOREIGN MINISTER LIEN CHAN MET WITH AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED IN TAIPEI FROM SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, HAITI, HONDURAS, AND GUATEMALA TO REQUEST THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS CONDEMN THE ATTACK AND TO DEMAND THAT PRC AUTHORITIES PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE. WHILE THIS MEETING WAS PUBLICIZED, THE PARALLEL APPROACH BY PRESIDENT LEE TO AIT (REFTEL) HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

15. (C) IN A SEPARATE ACTION, PRESIDENT LEE ORDERED THAT TAIWAN'S ARMED FORCES BE PLACED ON ALERT TO GUARD AGAINST ANY ATTACK FROM THE MAINLAND. ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF HAU PEI-TSUN CONFIRMED THE ORDER, TELLING THE PRESS THAT HE SAW NO IMMINENT THREAT TO TAIWAN'S SECURITY BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT THE PLA COULD TRY TO MAKE TROUBLE IN ORDER TO DIVERT ATTENTION THE PRC'S INTERNAL DISORDER. DESPITE THE INCREASED ALERT STATUS, AT LEAST ONE HIGH-RANKING ADMIRAL WAS STILL ON THE GOLF COURSE SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

16. (U) THE DRAMATIC CRACKDOWN IN BEIJING HAS IMMEDIATELY RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT TAIWAN'S POLICY TOWARD MAINLAND CONTACTS. PREMIER LEE HUAN TOLD REPORTERS JUNE 4 THAT THE POLICY OF ALLOWING PRIVATE VISITS WOULD NOT ONLY CONTINUE, BUT SHOULD BE EXPANDED EVEN FURTHER. VICE PREMIER SHIH CHI-YANG, IN CHARGE OF THE CABINET'S MAINLAND TASK FORCE, LIKEWISE STATED THAT CONTACTS WOULD CONTINUE, SINCE THEY SERVED THE LONG-TERM PURPOSE OF FOSTERING DEMOCRACY. TASK FORCE SECRETARY MA YING-JEU FOR HIS PART DECLARED THAT TIANANMEN DEVELOPMENTS WOULD NOT AFFECT ONGOING EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE DRAFT REGULATIONS ON CROSS-STRAIT CONTACTS.

17. (U) OTHER EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRC. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TAIWAN'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CENTER, JOHN NI, ANNOUNCED AT THE KMT PLENUM THE SETTING UP OF A FUND TO FINANCE OVERSEAS ADVERTISING DENOUNCING THE COMMUNISTS' ACTIONS AND SOLICITING SUPPORT FOR THE PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT. THE GOAL IS REPORTED TO BE A FUND OF USD 100 MILLION OF WHICH US\$ 280,000 IS SAID SO FAR TO HAVE BEEN RAISED. THE LOCAL RED CROSS SOCIETY WILL OFFER MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES TO THE PRC RED CROSS SOCIETY ACCORDING TO ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL. THIS FOLLOWS A PRESIDENTIAL DECISION, REPORTED IN THE CENTRAL DAILY NEWS, THAT ASSISTANCE BE OFFERED VIA THE INTER INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO THE VICTIMS OF THE TIANANMEN VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

18. (U) TAIWAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN, LEGISLATORS, AND CONTROL YUAN MEMBERS FROM KMT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES CONDEMNED THE ATTACK ON THE PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATORS. COMMENTS INCLUDE CALLS BY KMT ASSEMBLYMEN AND SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATORS FOR THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES TO GIVE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO THE PROTESTORS AND TO MAKE A CRITICAL REAPPRAISAL OF TAIWAN'S POLICY TOWARD THE MAINLAND AS WELL AS EXPRESSIONS OF ANGER AND SORROW ON THE PART OF OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS AT THE SUPPRESSION OF DEMOCRACY ON THE MAINLAND.

19. (U) THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S., TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO PUT AN END TO THE BLOODSHED IN BEIJING. AIT HAS HAD SEVERAL PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT WHAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD DO. IN ADDITION, NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR THOMAS PENG, CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION, CALLED AIT TO ASK THAT THE U.S. SPEAK OUT STRONGLY AGAINST THE KILLING OF DEMONSTRATORS.

¶10. (U) OTHER REPORTED RESPONSES TO THE ATTACK INCLUDE AN EXPRESSION OF SHOCK AND SORROW BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY WHO ATTRIBUTED THE VIOLENCE TO THE LACK OF TOLERANCE FOR DEMOCRACY ON THE MAINLAND AND A REQUEST OF THE CHINA DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY THAT JUNE 4 BE DECLARED A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THOSE KILLED IN THE ATTACK AND THAT SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS BE AMENDED TO RECORD THE EVENT. A LIST OF ACTIONS REPORTED TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE AUTHORITIES INCLUDE:

-- A TEMPORARY LIFTING OF THE BAN ON DIRECT FAX COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MAINLAND TO PERMIT MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT TO BE SENT TO THE PRC.

-- A PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED AT TIANANMEN INCLUDING LOWERING THE TAIWAN FLAG TO HALF MAST.

-- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A "MORE AGGRESSIVE" MAINLAND POLICY IN WHICH TAIWAN AUTHORITIES WILL PLAY A "MORE LEADING ROLE" IN INFORMING PEOPLE ON THE MAINLAND OF TAIWAN'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

¶11. (C) COMMENT. THE KMT'S EVIDENT DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ITS OPENING TO THE MAINLAND WAS SIGNALLED THE DAY BEFORE THE PLA'S ACTION IN TIANANMEN WHEN LEE TENG-HUI ADDRESSED THE OPENING SESSION OF THE KMT SECOND PLENUM. IN HIS ADDRESS, LEE STATED THAT THE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON VISITS "HAS MADE THE PEOPLE ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND LONG FOR THE LIFE ON THE ISLAND" AND HAS INCREASED THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT COMMUNISM. CALLS FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM, LEE DECLARED, ARE "ONE INESCAPABLE RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MAINLAND POLICY." DESPITE THIS, THE BLOODSHED IN BEIJING MAY CAUSE THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE QUESTION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE PRC. LEE HUAN DISTINGUISHED THIS FROM THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING VISITS, AND SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED IN LIGHT OF EVENTS. DEFENSE MINISTER CHENG WEI-YUAN IS QUOTED AS CALLING FOR TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PRC, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HIS REMARKS WERE INTENDED TO INCLUDE TAIWAN'S OWN TRADE WITH THE MAINLAND. THE DETAILS OF TAIWAN'S MAINLAND POLICY ARE LIKELY TO BE THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE DISCUSSION IN THE DAYS AHEAD. END COMMENT.

DEAN